

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-33 (canceled).

34. (currently amended) A substantially automatic system for correlating ~~an inventory of metrics associated with a plurality of software product data concerning software products~~ installed on a computer with related software agreement data, the system comprising:

a first computerized software facility operable to ~~receive the software product data~~ interface with a respective software product API of at least one of the plurality of software products in order to obtain the related software agreement data;

a second computerized software facility operable to ~~receive the software agreement data~~ interface with the respective software product API of the at least one software product in order to obtain software product data;

a software facility API provided by at least one of the first computerized software facility and the second computerized software facility to enable the at least one software product interfaces to supply the related software agreement data or the software product data;

a third computerized software facility operable to correlate substantially automatically the software product data and the software agreement data with one another; and

a fourth computerized software facility operable to output results of said correlation, wherein the system is operable to display and report the results from the fourth computerized software facility, and wherein the system is not operable to affect operation of any software product identified by data correlated by the third computerized software facility.

35. (original) The system of claim 34, in which the computer is a mainframe computer.

36. (original) The system of claim 34, in which the computer is a network of computers.

37. (original) The system of claim 34, in which the software product data is inventory data.

38. (original) The system of claim 34, in which the software product data is usage data.

39. (original) The system of claim 34, in which the software product data is a combination of inventory and usage data.

40. (original) The system of claim 34, in which the agreement data contains a plurality of data fields.

41. (original) The system of claim 40, in which the data fields are selected from a group including:

time and date of transaction; name, address, phone number, e-mail address of vendor; description of asset; manufacturer, model, year, options; warranties, contract terms and conditions; contract information, fee structure; number of concurrent users; renewal dates; MIPS authorization; authorized CPUs; product name; and discounts.

42. (original) The system of claim 34, in which the first software facility comprises a data acquisition system including a plurality of software acquisition tools.

43. (original) The system of claim 42, in which the software acquisition tools include an importing tool for importing at least a portion of the software product data.

Claims 44-45 (canceled).

46. (original) The system of claim 34, in which the third software facility comprises a reconciliation and association facility which includes a plurality of software tools.

47. (original) The system of claim 46, in which the reconciliation and association tools include a tool for resolving inconsistencies and mismatches in product names between the software product data and the software agreement data.

48. (original) The system of claim 34, in which the third software facility is effective for correlating at least 25% of the data contained in one of the software product data and the software agreement product data.

49. (currently amended) ~~The data-reporting-system of claim 134, in which the link data updater is enabled to run on a periodic basis~~wherein at least one of the first computerized software facility and the second computerized software facility interface with the at least one software product on a periodic basis.

50. (currently amended) ~~The data-reporting-system of claim 134, in which the link data updater is configured to run continuously to update the linking data~~wherein at least one of the first computerized software facility and the second computerized software facility interface with the at least one software product on a continuous basis.

51. (currently amended) ~~The data-reporting-system of claim 134, in which the link data updater becomes activated in response to alterations to the inventory of software products installed on the computer~~wherein at least one of the first computerized software facility and the second computerized software facility interface with the at least one software product in response to alterations in an inventory of the software products.

Claims 52-57 (canceled).